

HONORING THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MINNESOTA ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the International Institute of Minnesota on the occasion of its 100th anniversary. The Institute's original mission is as vital today as it was after World War I when it welcomed refugees fleeing strife and instability in their homelands and helped them achieve self-sufficiency and full membership in American life.

In 1919, leaders of the Saint Paul YWCA came together to address an urgent need in the community to serve those who were arriving to Minnesota, displaced in the aftermath of the "War to End All Wars." Out of this effort, the Institute became one of the first state resettlement voluntary agencies (VOLAGS).

The onset of World War II saw the need for the Institute's services to expand. During this time, the organization partnered with the War Relocation Authority, helping to free Japanese-Americans from internment camps and working as translators and codebreakers at Fort Snelling. At the end of the Vietnam War, many refugees were displaced from Southeast Asia to Minnesota, particularly ethnic Hmong and others from Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam. Since 1974, the Institute has resettled approximately 25,000 refugees from every region of the world, including recent arrivals from Somalia and Myanmar.

As economists point to increasingly tight labor markets and a growing scarcity of workers as two of our state's most significant barriers to sustained economic growth, the Institute contributes to our economic vitality by opening the door for those pursuing the American dream. By partnering with new Americans on a path to citizenship, entrepreneurship and full membership in our community, state and country, the Institute has empowered thousands of new Americans to become our trusted doctors, business leaders, teachers, engineers, scientists, policemen and soldiers.

Recognizing that new Americans enrich our state in many ways, the Institute honors and shares our state's growing diversity and fosters cultural understanding. For nearly 90 years, the Institute's Festival of Nations has drawn thousands of people together each May to celebrate the many traditions that are shared by Minnesotans. Through this festival, Minnesotans can better appreciate how as a state and nation of Native Americans and immigrants, our strength is our diversity of backgrounds, viewpoints and religions.

The motto inscribed on the Great Seal of the United States: "E Pluribus Unum—Out of Many, One" underscores that the foundation of our nation has always been the collective power of many different people coming together. For 100 years, the International Institute of Minnesota has proudly supported our nation by welcoming and empowering new refugees and immigrants from different backgrounds to come together as new Americans.

Please join me to congratulate the staff, volunteers and donors to the International Institute of Minnesota for providing 100 years of

hospitality, empowerment, hope and opportunity for new Americans.

CONGRATULATING JOHN F. MITTON FOR BEING VOTED INTO THE TEXAS RADIO HALL OF FAME

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate John F. Mitton from Missouri City, Texas for being voted into the Texas Radio Hall of Fame.

Mitton, president of a national advertising agency based in Sugar Land, is one of only twenty Texas broadcasters who will be inducted into the Hall of Fame. Inductions will be held on November 2, 2019, at the Texas Museum of Broadcasting and Communications. Mitton has always had a strong suit for "listening to his clients . . . [and] helping develop and refine some of the best niche products ever featured in Texas radio."

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to John Mitton for being elected into the Texas Radio Hall of Fame. Texas has benefited from his contributions to radio. We are very proud of him and this incredible accomplishment.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL ROBERT J. FRIEND

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Lieutenant Colonel Robert Jones Friend, who died on June 21, 2019 in Long Beach, California, surrounded by his family. Lieutenant Colonel Friend was a member of the heroic unit known as the Tuskegee Airmen during World War II.

Robert J. Friend was born on February 29, 1920, in Columbia, South Carolina, to William A. Friend and Nella Mae Jones Liner. His father was an immigrant from Ecuador and a veteran of World War I. The oldest of four children, Robert was an aviation enthusiast from a young age, often building model airplanes and reading stories of World War I pilots during his childhood. While studying at Lincoln University in Pennsylvania, he joined the Civilian Pilot Training Program where he earned his pilot's license in 1939.

Despite his passion for aviation, he was denied entry into flight training by the Army Air Force because of his race. Instead he joined as an air-cadet in the all-black 99th Pursuit Squadron, nicknamed the Tuskegee Airmen. During World War II, Lieutenant Colonel Friend flew 142 missions for the 322nd Fighter Group. He began his tour in North Africa and was later sent to the European Theater to serve as a Combat Operations Officer where he was instrumental in orchestrating tactical air missions. He specialized in flying the P-47 and P-51 Mustang aircraft. He experienced multiple death-defying disasters, including when he had to abandon his plane over the

mountains of Italy and when a German oil barge explosion nearly grounded his aircraft. He became the primary wingman to his commanding officer, Colonel Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., who would become the first black general in the Air Force. Robert and his fellow airmen were later awarded the Congressional Gold Medal for their service to our country.

After his service in World War II, Lieutenant Colonel Friend continued his education and received a degree in astrophysics from the Air Force Institute of Technology, later graduating from the University of California, Los Angeles Business School. Additionally, he continued his career in the military for 28 years by serving as an operations officer during the Korean and Vietnam wars, working on the Delta, Titan, and Atlas rocket programs, and operating as an executive of the aerospace companies, Stanford Mu and Fairchild Stratos. Following his retirement from military service, Robert started an aerospace company and conducted speaking engagements, remaining dedicated to sharing the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen and keeping their history alive.

Robert J. Friend is survived by his children: Thelma Hoffman, Robert, Jr., Michael, Debra Carter, Karen Crumlich, Clara Ann Browning, 18 grandchildren, 32 great-grandchildren, and 14 great-great-grandchildren. The memory of his son, Darryl, who was killed while on active duty in 2002, continues to live on today.

It was my great honor to have known Lieutenant Colonel Friend, an intelligent, hard-working, and spirited man who spent his life in service to our country. I ask all members to join with me in remembering Lieutenant Colonel Robert Jones Friend, a true American hero.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

SPEECH OF

HON. KENDRA S. HORN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2019

Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, the U.S. Government is entrusted by the American people with certain responsibilities. One of these responsibilities is managing our government's finances and using taxpayer dollars wisely. In the last few decades, our government leaders have too often ignored this responsibility, opting rather to pay lip service to responsibly managing our budget but neglecting to do so in practice. This neglect has led to rampant spending, missed budgetary deadlines, and burdensome borrowing that have become mainstays of every Congress, regardless of which party holds the majority. The 116th Congress must take action to break this unsustainable cycle and restore the fiscal responsibility Americans have entrusted us with.

The 2019 GAO High-Risk List reveals that many federal government programs are over budget. This financial situation is not specific to one government agency or program. It can be found across the federal government. America must remain a world leader in many areas, such as scientific research, reliable infrastructure, and defense technology, and I understand that to do so requires large financial investments. However, it is also my responsibility as a Member of Congress to ensure the money our government spends is